78. (AMENDED) The processing system according to claim 76, wherein the text object includes a value, indicating whether an attribute - type of an element is low level in a syntactic hierarchy or high level whereby the value may be used for matching purposes when matching with other free-format data processed in accordance with this system.

93. (AMENDED) A method of enabling access to free-format data stored in a computing system, including a plurality of free-format data records, comprising the steps of storing additional data relating to semantic and syntactic information (attributes) about the data for each data record, the additional data being in the form of a text object associated with each data records, the text object including pointer means enabling access to elements of each free-format data record, the additional data being accessible by a query processing means to provide answers to queries relating to the semantic and syntactic information about the data and/or to access the data to manipulate the data.